

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill Number: H.3663

Bill Name: An Act relative to the safe operation of drones in the Commonwealth

Sponsor(s): Rep. Brandy Fluker-Reid

Hearing Date: July 22nd, 2025 (**Reporting Date:** September 20th, 2025)

Bill History: (2023-2024) H.3325; attached to H3429

Current Law: Creates a new section of MGL Chapter 90.

**Summary of
Proposed Law:**

§1

Establishes definitions for the following terms:

- ‘Operate’ as, “to pilot, fly, control, direct, or program the flight of an unmanned aircraft system,”
- ‘Recreational’ as, “any drone, UAV or UAS that weighs more than 10 pounds,”
- ‘Unmanned aircraft system (UAS)’ as, “an unmanned aerial vehicle and associated elements and support equipment required for the safe and efficient operation of the UAV, including but not limited to, communications links and components that control the UAV,” and
- ‘Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone’ as, “a powered aerial vehicle that:
 - Does not carry a human operator and is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft,
 - Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift,
 - Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely, and
 - Can be expendable or recoverable.”

Prohibits persons under the age of 16 from operating a UAS or UAV.

Requires operators to comply with applicable federal regulations, to register drones with the FAA, and to obtain a remote pilot's certificate.

Prohibits drones from being operated while the operator is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, outside of the line of sight of the operator, or in a manner that poses a hazard to other aircraft, people, or property.

Prohibits the commercial operation of drones at night, unless they are delivering emergency medical supplies to health care facilities.

Prohibits commercial drones from taking off or landing on municipal or state-owned property.

Prohibits commercial drones from taking off or landing within 250 feet of areas of critical environmental concern.

Prohibits commercial drones from taking off or landing within 150 feet of airports or helipads, aquifers, places where children congregate, military bases, critical infrastructures including but not limited to power plants, gas utilities, solar fields, wind farms or water treatment facilities, emergency and law enforcement facilities, daycare facilities, correction and prison facilities, government and federal offices or buildings, zoos, livestock farms, or wildlife preserves.

Prohibits commercial drones from taking off or landing within 100 feet of a public or private school providing education in kindergarten or any of Grades 1 through 12, churches, athletic events, concerts or other events where crowds gather, playgrounds, or parks.